

From: CZ
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 4:57am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I just wanted to have one more point go against Microsoft. They have killed off so many great projects, programs, technologies and entire companies using their strong arm tactics. They are a disease to the computer industry, a digital anthrax.

I've spoken with numerous people (clients/friends/etc) that have said they would use competing products if they could, but because of the control Microsoft has on how some technologies work (among other reasons), they can't.

I'll give you an instance of a problem I have regarding one of their products. I have my default browser set to Omniweb, a beautiful browser native only to MacOS X. However, when I choose a link in AOL Instant Messenger or many other places, Internet Explorer comes up. One might tell me to delete IE if I didn't like it, but I can't. I have to keep it around for those web pages that aren't viewable in anything else but IE, and unfortunately there are many. So even when I choose a competing product, I still get stuck with Microsoft. Is this really providing choice to the consumer? I'd say no.

Microsoft's settlement is not only a joke, but an insult. Even if they were to give \$1 Billion in cash (instead of software/etc) to schools, it would not make up for the damage they have done. I agree 100% with Judge Jackson's ruling to split up the company, in fact, I think it should have gone beyond that. Microsoft's power needs to be limited so they cannot break the law again. I believe the only way to accomplish this is to break them up into 2 pieces, perhaps more. Even then there should be rules so the new parts don't collaborate in ways that would undermine the purpose of breaking them up.

Thank you for your time,

Chad Kay